

The Public Health Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic in Cambridge

COVID-19 WEEKLY REPORT

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

JANUARY 4, 2021



Cambridge
Public Health
Department



CHA Cambridge
Health Alliance



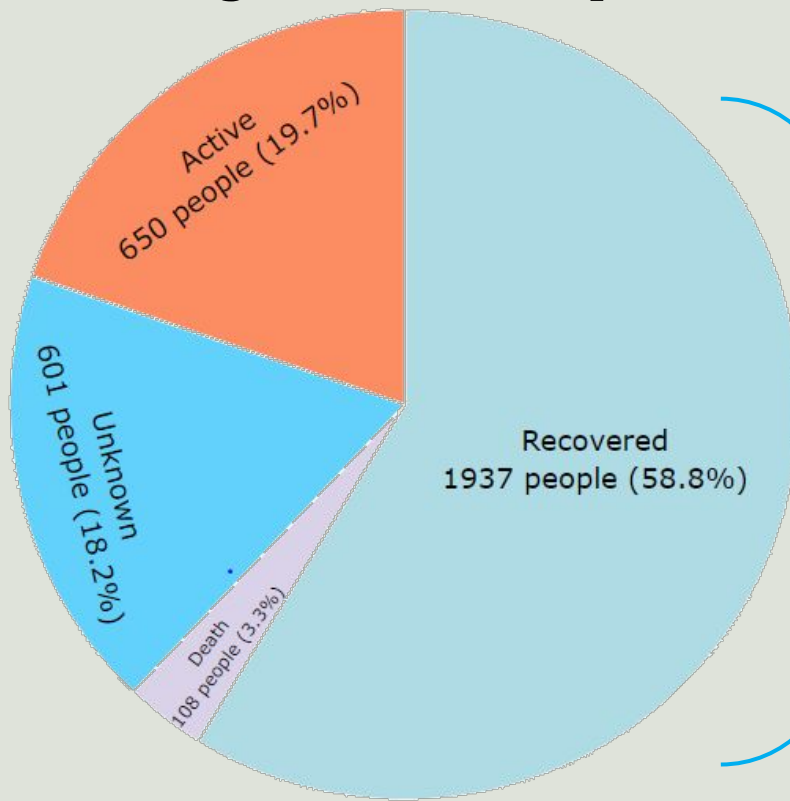
Massachusetts Cities Comparison

City/Town	Average Daily Incident Rate per 100,000 (14 days*)	
	December 24 Report	December 31 Report
Boston	59.1	54.9
Cambridge	26.9	26.0
Lowell	120.9	91.1
Newton	23.5	24.3
Somerville	48.7	39.0
Springfield	84.0	76.3
Worcester	85.6	76.3
State	63.2	58.3

*14-day period reflects 12/6/20-12/19/20 (Dec. 24 Report) and 12/13-20-12/26/20 (Dec. 31 Report)
 Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health Weekly COVID-19 Data Reports

Case Snapshot

New infections statewide and in Cambridge continue to remain high and above pre-Thanksgiving levels.



3,296 Total Cases

(confirmed, probable and suspect)

- 3,009 in the community
- 287 cases in long-term cares

110 Deaths

- 66% of deaths were among LTC residents

Active Cases

- 19.7 % of all cases are active

25.7 Confirmed Cases per 100,000

(7-day average for Dec. 27-Jan 2)

Source: City of Cambridge COVID-19 Data Center, downloaded on 1/3/20 at 4pm. Please note that the death data were updated on 1/4/21.

Situational Update

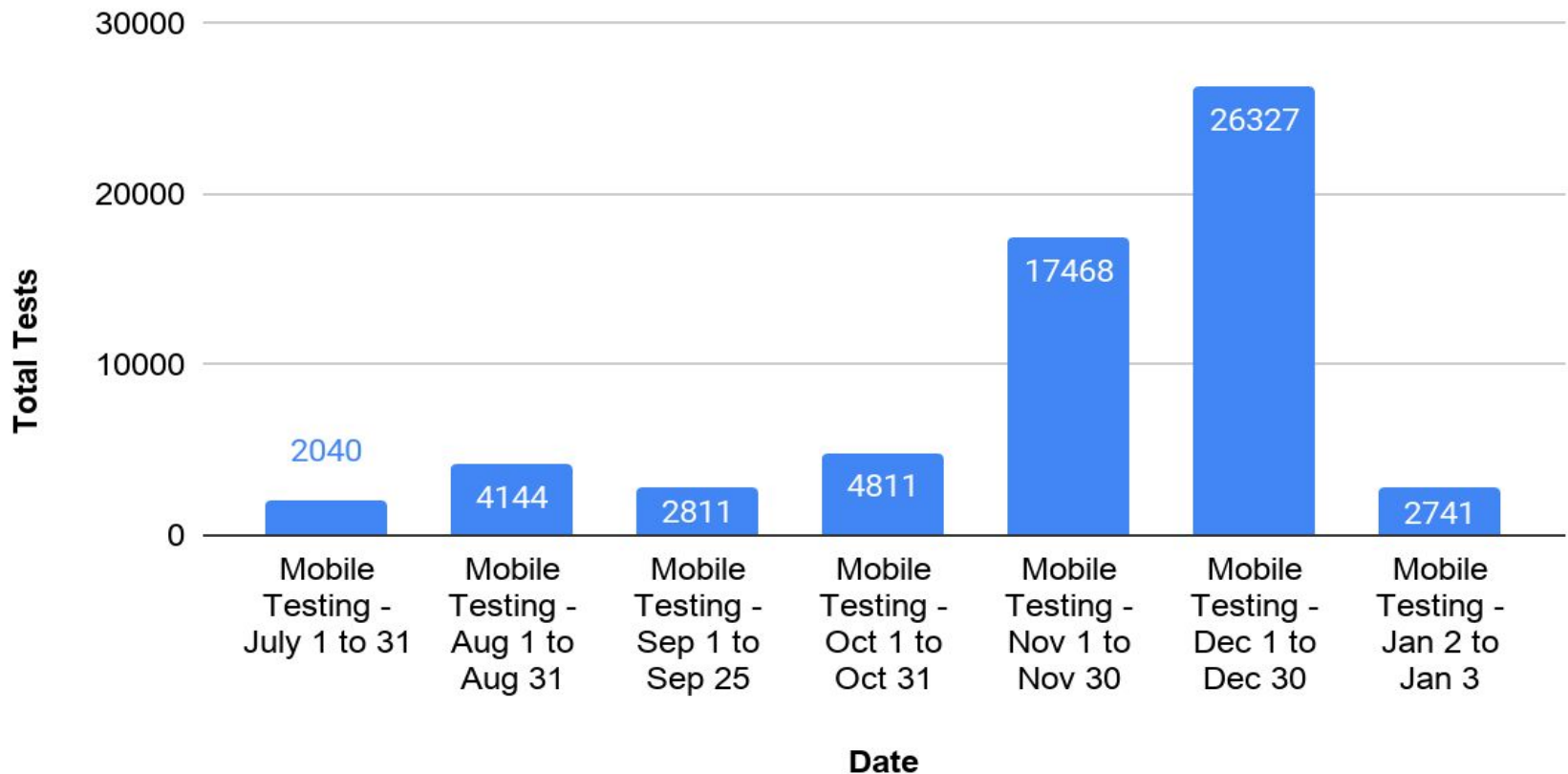
- **New infections** statewide and in Cambridge continue to remain high and above pre-Thanksgiving levels.
- **Hospitalizations**¹
 - Available non-ICU hospital beds in Metro West (incl. Cambridge) communities: **18%**
 - Available ICU hospital beds in Metro West communities: **30%**
- **Deaths**² — Nine Cambridge residents died from COVID-19 in December:
 - **Age:** 60s (4 residents); 70s (1 resident); 80s (3 residents); and 90s (1 resident)
 - **Place of Residence:** Private residence (5 residents); senior public housing (3 residents) and long-term care facilities (1 resident)

¹Massachusetts Department of Public Health Daily COVID-19 Data Report: January 3, 2021

²Cambridge Public Health Department data, as of January 4, 2021

COVID-19 Community Testing

Community Testing - Total Tests per Month



Cambridge Community Corps



- **Cambridge Community Corps (C3)** members conducted door-to-door outreach in the Wellington-Harrington neighborhood on Saturday, Dec. 26 to encourage residents to get tested that day at the Pisani Center in The Port.
- Over 300 door knockers (flyers) about COVID-19 testing were distributed at Wellington-Harrington residences.
- Plans also include redeploying C3 to support the COVID testing sites.

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

When can I get a **COVID-19** vaccine in MA?



PHASE ONE

In order of priority

- Clinical and non-clinical healthcare workers doing direct and COVID-facing care
- Long term care facilities, rest homes and assisted living facilities
- Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- Congregate care settings (including corrections and shelters)
- Home-based healthcare workers
- Healthcare workers doing non-COVID-facing care



PHASE TWO

In order of priority

- Individuals with 2+ comorbidities (high risk for COVID-19 complications)
- Early education, K-12, transit, grocery, utility, food and agriculture, sanitation, public works and public health workers
- Adults 65+
- Individuals with one comorbidity



PHASE THREE

Vaccine available to general public

December - February

Estimated timeframes

February - April

April - June

For more information on vaccine distribution visit [Mass.gov/COVIDvaccine](https://mass.gov/COVIDvaccine)



COVID-19 Vaccine Update

- Cambridge Health Alliance and Mount Auburn Hospital began vaccinating health care workers last week.
- Residents and staff of all long-term cares started to receive the vaccine last week.
- CPHD will work with ProEMS to vaccinate first responders.
 - Operation Nightingale (week of January 11)
 - @1,000 personnel including campus safety from HU & MIT



Lisa Dobberteen, MD, receives her COVID-19 vaccine at Cambridge Health Alliance.

COVID Vaccine Communications

- **Goal:** Increase trust in a COVID vaccine resulting in a high percentage of vaccine participation by residents.
- **Approach:** Multi-phase communication strategy beginning in January 2021 (through Fall 2021):
 - Audience Segmentation (communities of color; older adults; etc)
 - Multiple Messages (trust, safety, importance of continued vigilance after vaccine)
 - Multiple Channels (based upon demographics): social media; door-to-door/grassroots campaign; community forums/town hall; City website
 - All Hands-on Deck: (trusted community leaders, residents and key influencers)

COVID Vaccine Communications

- **Winter 2021**
 - **Vaccine Task Force** members identified and Task Force launched
 - **Message development** and communications dissemination strategy:
 - Community engagement (direct and through key community leaders)
 - Informal focus groups; interviews
 - Translation and appropriate literacy levels
 - **Campaign Launch:**
 - Use of physicians, nurses, leaders in faith communities (pictures of them getting vaccinated) = trusted messengers
 - PSAs; town halls/forums; print and electronic media
 - “Vax Up Cambridge”: develop a tagline for stickers, posters, etc (much like “I Voted”)

Cambridge Public Schools Metrics

Metric 1

Daily New Cases

25.7

7-day average of new confirmed cases per day, per 100,000 people in Cambridge, ending January 2.

Threshold: < 25 new confirmed cases per day, per 100,000 people (7-day average)

Above Threshold

Metric 2

Test Positivity Rate

1.32%

Percentage of positive COVID-19 tests among Cambridge residents in last 14 days ending Dec. 26.

Threshold: <5% of COVID-19 tests among residents are positive.

Below Threshold

Metric 3

Wastewater Monitoring

851.5

Level of COVID-19 found in sewage wastewater in MWRA, as of Dec. 30.

Threshold: COVID-19 in wastewater detected at less than 100 copies viral genomes/mL

Above Threshold